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Saratoga Arts Fest Announces 2015 Line Up for New “Arts Fest Fridays”

New entertainment-filled, single-location events feature dynamic mix of artists, art organizations, producers, and venues September through December

Saratoga Springs, New York: Saratoga Arts Fest and Spring Street Gallery announce the lineup for the 2015 Arts Fest Friday Series, four entertainment-filled events set in a different venue each month, featuring performances and offerings from a wide range of Saratoga arts organizations and businesses. The events, which are designed to appeal to multiple generations of interests, are presented free of charge and will take place on the first Friday of the month from September through December 2015.

The new Arts Fest Fridays marks a change from previous Saratoga Arts Fest's yearly festival model. “The four-day Arts Fest weekend event in June was much loved and attended by the community and we are grateful for the vision, support and enthusiasm of the leadership that was evident in this program,” says Dee Sarno, Chair of the Saratoga Arts Board of Directors and a long-time leader in the Capital Region's arts community. “Through the years there were some challenges, and for the benefit of our arts partners and others, we felt it was appropriate to look at a different concept for Arts Fest. So after many months of meetings and input from our partner arts organizations, sponsors, and member artists, the Arts Fest Board of Directors is thrilled to debut a new monthly Arts Fest concept.” The new Arts Fest events will be produced in partnership with Spring Street Gallery.

“The once-a-month Arts Fest Friday model helps us to really shine a spotlight on the featured venue and featured arts groups,” said Maureen Sager, Executive Producer of Arts Fest Fridays, and Executive Director of Spring Street Gallery, a not-for-profit arts and performance space in Saratoga Springs. “To keep things fresh and reflect multiple perspectives and tastes, we tapped a different production team for each event. We tasked them to create events that are suited to the venue and to their particular – and very interesting! – tastes and interests. We're really thrilled with the variety of programming our producers have come up with!”

This year's series will include:

Friday, September 4, 2015 | 5:00 until 8:00 PM

VINTAGE BEEKMAN STREET FEST: The series debuts with a celebration of the city's Beekman Street and its colorful and diverse ethnic and cultural history. Vintage Beekman Street is designed to transport visitors back to a time when change was in the air and the neighborhood was alive with an evolving and diverse tapestry of Irish, Italian and African American communities. Part street fair, part street performance, the event offers an energetic mix of period music, costumed performers, antique cars, and great ethnic food served up by Beekman Street restaurants.

PRODUCERS:

- Corey Aldrich – Owner / Founder at 2440 Design Studio : FP & NFP Brand Consulting and Production work. Owner / Founder at Electric City Couture.
- Belinda Colón – Installation Manager, Spring Street Gallery; Founder, On Deck Saratoga, a not-for-profit organization advocating for recreational and cultural activities in the local community, including the Saratoga Skate Park.

- Cecilia Frittelli Lockwood – Co-Owner, Textile Studio, producers of luxury, retro-inspired handwoven clothing and accessories for men and women.

Friday, October 2, 2015 | 5:00 to 7:30 PM

UNIVERSAL PRESERVATION HALL GOES AVANT GARDE : On Friday, October 2, Arts Fest Friday presents an Evening of Avant Garde Entertainment at Universal Preservation Hall. This eclectic, all-ages, multi-genre event kicks off in the Chapel with a set by the Heavenly Echoes Gospel Singers, and is followed by a collaborative performance between composer/instrumentalist Carl Landa, DJ/electronic music producer/singer Jennifer Maher, and modern dancers choreographed by Skidmore professor Deb Fernandez. The electrifying evening closes with an uplifting DJ set, sending revelers off in a party mood, to the arts-rich streets of Saratoga Springs.

PRODUCERS:

- Dee Sarno – Retired Executive Director of Saratoga County Arts Council and founding director of the 320 Broadway Arts Center, Sarno is the Current Chair of the Arts Fest Board of Directors.
- Bob Carlton – Co-founder, Jet Pack Productions, a Saratoga Springs-based music promotion company; rock musician and member of the band Dryer.

Friday, November 6, 2015 | 5:00 to 7:30 PM

TANG TEACHING MUSEUM VAUDEVILLE CIRCUS: On Friday, November 6th, Arts Fest Friday rolls into town and pitches a stage for its one-night-only Vaudeville Circus at the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College. The festivities feature a very special and delightfully unusual performance by Suitcase Junket, a nationally-touring, slide-guitar-playing, throat-singing one man band. Circus performers and tap dancers mingle with visitors while they tour the Tang's "Affinity Atlas" and Mark Allen visual art exhibits.

PRODUCERS

- Paul Calhoun -- Dean of Special Programs at Skidmore College.
- Megan Hyde -- Museum Educator for College and Public Programs at the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College where she works with the Skidmore community and the broader region in making the museum an integral place for learning.
- Dianne Winter -- Associate Director for Caffè Lena where she is responsible for attracting financial support for the non-profit arts organization and overseeing its annual budget.

Friday, December 4, 2015 | 5:00 to 7:30 PM

BEHIND THE SCENES AT HOME MADE THEATER: On Friday, December 4th, Arts Fest Friday brings you "backstage" to the magical process of theatrical production with the Home Made Theater at Saratoga Spa State Park. Experience the thrill of auditions, costumes, set-building, rehearsing and more, and tour the wonderful back stages — and perhaps even meet the legendary ghosts — of Home Made Theater.

PRODUCERS

- Lezlie Dana – Television and stage actress, producer, director, model, acting teacher
- Cynthia Fiorini – Painter and visual artist, social media consultant
- Carol Maxwell – President of Saratoga Film Forum
- Stacie Mayette-Barnes -- Executive Director of Home Made Theater
- Jael Polnac – Former attorney, Saratoga Arts Fest board member.

All events are FREE and open to the public. This year's series is made possible through the generosity of Skidmore College, Stewart's Shops, Ayco, the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, Saratoga Arts Fest patrons, and each event's Arts Partners.

For more information, please visit www.saratogaartsfest.com

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